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In the 'black earth' steppes of Ciscaucasia the maximum rainfall is at the beginning of summer; on the eastern steppes, which extend along the Caspian Sea, the maximum is reached in March.

(4) Sanitary Conditions

The science of hygiene is unknown in Caucasian villages, and medical aid is absent or inaccessible in country districts. Malaria is the characteristic disease of Caucasia, but small-pox, scarlet fever, measles, dysentery, typhus, and pneumonia are prevalent and cause many deaths.

In the fashionable health resorts, such as Kislovodsk, Jelieźnovodsk and Pyatigozsk, there are very up-to-date sanatoria established on the latest German lines, to which people come from all parts of Russia to take the waters and the cure.

(5) Race and Language

Russians form 34 per cent. of the people of Ciscaucasia, and in the Government of Stavropol amount to 90 per cent. In the Province of Kuban 109 per 1,000 are Cossacks; in Terek the proportion is 179 per 1,000. Tatars live in the east and south-east, where they form 19·3 per cent. of the inhabitants. The remainder consists of Kalmucks, Turcomans, Nogai-Tatars, Armenians, Georgians, Germans, Poles, &c. (See also p. 8.)

(6) Population

The population of the three Ciscaucasian provinces on January 1, 1913, was 5,470,600, distributed as follows:

	Rural Population.	*Urban Population.*	*Total.*
Kuban . .	2,667,000	244,800	2,911,800
Stavropol .	1,232,400	79,700	1,312,100
Terek . .	1,015,100	231,600	1,246,700

Towns

Ekaterinodar (population in 1897, 65,697, now about 107,000), the capital of the Province of Kuban, is

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and at Delijan, Kazakh, Sagali, Saifalu, and elsewhere in the Government of Elisavetpol.

(2) In the Chorokh Basin, the whole length of which is believed to contain rich deposits of ore, the British Caucasus Copper Co. has worked the Dzanzul mine, south of Borchka. In 1912 the production from this mine was 40,000 tons of ore and 3,000 tons of copper, but in the following year the output was disappointing. In the same region Siemens Brothers had begun operations at the Khvartshana mine.

(3) In the Zangezur region difficulties of transport have prevented adequate exploitation, but work has been undertaken by native firms, notably at Synik, Barabatum and Katar. Other considerable deposits are believed to exist in the Rion Valley round Telav and Zakatali, in the Sukhum district and along the Ossetian Military Road.

Iron has been little exploited in the Caucasus, but deposits have been prospected at Khamuli in Kutais, Chachak in Tiflis, on the banks of the Bzib near Sukhum, at Veden in Chechnia, in the Maikop district, and near Lenkoran.

There are deposits of *lead* and *zinc* ore at Sadon, near Vladikavkaz, in the neighbourhoods of Sukhum and Gori, in the Government of Elisavetpol, near Mozdok and Artvin, and elsewhere, but little exploitation has been undertaken. Deposits of *mercury*, *molybdenum*, *antimony*, *iron pyrites*, *cobalt* and *nickel*, and also small quantities of *gold* and *silver* exist, and would probably repay exploitation.

Non-Metals.—*Coal* is exploited in the Caucasus only at the mines of Tkhvibuli in the Government of Kutais, where the annual production for 1911–15 averaged about 5,000 tons. Much of it however was of poor quality. Rich deposits have been prospected at Tkvartcheli, in the Government of Sukhum, and another field has been located near Olti in the Government of Kars.

Deposits of *baryta* have been worked in the Government of Kutais; *asbestos* is produced at Shorapan and elsewhere in Kutais; *sulphur* abounds in the Government of Erivan; *salt* is produced in considerable quantities in the Governments of Baku, Erivan, Kars, and Daghestan; there are *bitumen*-beds on the Black Sea coast; *emery* is found at Kara-Bulakh; fine *lithographic stone* is obtainable at Amlivi, near Tiflis, and *pumice-stone* near Kars; *mica* and *graphite* also exist.

Mineral Springs.—The Caucasus is celebrated for its mineral springs, and before the Revolution many thousands of Russians, and even invalids from Western Europe, visited the health-

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giving waters. In the Northern Caucasus Essentuki, Piatigorsk, Kislovodsk and Zhelesnovodsk were the favourite resorts. In Transcaucasia Borjom, in the Government of Tiflis, an appanage of the Grand Duke Nicholas Nicholaevich, was the most popular resort, and its waters, rich in carbonic acid and comparable with those of Vichy, were exported to Russia, Western Europe and America—in 1913 to the amount of 9,000,000 bottles.

At Abas-Tuman, 40 miles from Borjom, and at Tiflis are hot baths, efficacious for the cure of skin diseases, nervous diseases, rheumatism, etc. Some of the springs contain the same qualities as Cauterets and Barèges in France, and Baden in Austria, while the climate of Abas-Tuman attracts consumptive patients.

Tskhalkubo, near Kutais, possesses warm springs whose radio properties are declared to be equal to those of Teplitz-Schönau in Bohemia. For this resort is prophesied an important future as soon as the nature of the waters is more widely known, and ordered conditions make it accessible to the timid invalids of Western Europe and America.

Petroleum (1) The Baku Fields.—The Baku area has hitherto been the most productive source of Caucasian oil. The older oil-fields lie in the Apsheron Peninsula—Balakhani, Sabunchi, Romani, Bibi-Ebyat and Zabrat—while there is a more recently discovered field at Surakhani. The outlying district of Benagadi and Holy and Cheleken Islands in the Caspian, are also worked by the Baku firms. The Baku fields had been exploited since ancient times, and from 1813 some attempt had been made by the Russians to develop their potentialities. An onerous concession system, however, discouraged private enterprise, and when, in the middle of the nineteenth century, a universal demand for crude-oil was created, the fields still remained almost untouched, and Russia became dependent on oil imported from America. In 1872 the concession system was at last abolished, and State participation in the profits was ensured by the imposition of an excise duty. Later, the nascent industry was further assisted by the imposition of a duty on oil imported into Russia.

In 1873 the Swedish Nobel Brothers commenced to bore in the Apsheron fields, and in the following years many foreign groups, principal of which were the French Rothschilds, obtained concessions. In 1908 the prosperity of the Baku fields reached its zenith, and in that year the Caucasian oil-fields together produced 22 per cent. of the world's output. Between 1908 and 1911, however, there took place a serious decrease, the output falling from nearly 7,500,000 metric tons in 1908 to just over 5,000,000 metric tons in 1911.

HEALTH RESORTS

529 Health resorts play a very important role in the Caucasian economy. They consist of mineral springs, of healing mud baths, climatological resorts, etc.; they are mostly located along the slopes of the Greater and Lesser Caucasus. The number of health resorts is around 50. Taking the areas one by one, the distribution of the most important health resorts is as follows:

Azerbaijan SSR: Apsheron Peninsula with numerous resorts, and Naftalan, with raw petroleum for medicinal purposes, are noteworthy.

Armenian SSR: Has only one health resort at Dilizhan.

Georgian SSR: Rich in health resorts. Abastumani, Bakuriani, Borzhomi, Surani, Tsagveri (at the headwaters of the Kura River), and finally Tbilisi, have various springs, whereas Teberda is a noted health resort. Of the subunits, the Adzhar Republic has fine seaside resorts. The Abkhaz Republic, the subtropical health center of the USSR, has a whole line of tourist places and sanatoria. The most famous are those in Sukhumi. The South Ossetian AO has tourist resorts like Dzhava.

Dagestan ASSR: Buynaksk and Talgi are noted health resorts.

Stavropol'Kray: The Pyatigorsk area is one of the most important resort areas of the USSR. Pyatigorsk has sulphur springs and mud baths; Yessentuki, salt and alkaline baths;

529 Kislovodsk, carbonated springs; Zheleznovodsk, ferruginous springs. Of the sub-units, the Kabardian and the North Ossetian Republics have summer resorts (Nal'chik, Alagir), and are much frequented by Alpinists.

Krasnodar Kray: Mineral springs and their picturesque location have singled out the littoral section to be one of the important health resort areas of the USSR. The sanatoria of Sochi and the sulphur springs of Matsesta are very much frequented. The health resorts around Novorossiysk, like Anapa, Kabardinka and Gelendzhik are also famous.

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dairying, tobacco, distilling, canning, flour, and meat-packing plants. Steel tubing and telephone equipment are also manufactured. Surrounding the city are some of the principal jute-producing lands of the USSR.

Novorossiysk is a well-equipped Black Sea port on Tsemes Bay and the principal cement-milling center of the USSR. It ships the wheat of the Kuban' area and lies amidst such well-known resorts as Anapa, to the northwest, and Kabardinka and Gelendzhik, to the southeast. West of the city is the famous champagne center of Abrau-Dyurso. Novorossiysk produces agricultural machinery, bicycles, furniture, textiles, and flour. Grain elevators and oil tanks lie in the harbor area. The cement mills ("Krasnyy Oktyabr'" and "Krasnyy Proletariy") lie in the suburb Standart, north of the Tsemes Bay. Other mills lie in the towns of Verkhne-Bakanskaya and Gayduk, northwest of Novorossiysk.

Tuapse, another major port on the Black Sea, rivals Batumi in the shipping and refining of petroleum. Surrounded by orchards and vineyards, it is the terminus of an oil pipe line from Groznyy and Neftegorsk. It produces large amounts of fuel oil, which serves as the principal power source for electric stations throughout the region. Shipbuilding and the manufacture of machines for the petroleum industry are also important.

Sochi is the most popular health resort on the Black Sea coast. It is the site of numerous sanitariums and an experimental station for subtropical agriculture. To the southeast lie the satellite resorts of Matsesta (sulphur springs) and Khosta. It became a city of republic rank in 1948.

Other important centers of Krasnodar Kray are Armavir, with food (meat, flour, sunflower oil) and agricultural machinery industries, Yeysk, a fishing port having canning and meat-packing plants, and Kropotkin (food products).

Adyge Autonomous Oblast (capital, Maykop; area, 1,700, population, 300,000) is located on the middle Kuban' River, between its left affluents, the Laba and the Belaya. It was formed in 1922 and is one of the few remaining settlement areas of the Cherkess, or Circassian, ethnic group. The population, which is about 45 percent Cherkess or Adyge (the designation applied by the people to themselves), is for the remainder evenly divided among the Russian and the Ukrainian groups. The rural economy rests chiefly on the cultivation of winter wheat, sunflowers, and tobacco. Horse breeding is also engaged in.

Maykop, on the Belaya River, at the north foot of the Caucasus, is

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throughout the region and are especially concentrated at Stavropol', Georgiyevsk, Nevinnomyssk, and Budennovsk, where flour milling, oil pressing, canning, dairying, wool washing, cotton ginning, and wine making are the principal activities.

Of special importance in the economy of the region are the health and tourist resorts. One of the most important resort areas of the USSR lies in the foothills of the Greater Caucasus. There the resort cities of Zheleznovodsk (ferruginous springs), Pyatigorsk, Yessentuki, and Kislovodsk are linked by an electrified branch with the main Rostov-Baku railroad at Mineral'nyye Vody. The bottling of mineral waters is a major export industry.

For communications the region relies chiefly on the Rostov-Baku trunk line, from which branches penetrate into the remote sections to Divnoye, Blagodarnoye, Budennovsk, and into the foothills of the Caucasus to Ust'-Dzhegutinskaya and Kislovodsk. The Sukhumi military road, one of the three pass roads through the mountains, continues from the Nevinnomyssk-Cherkessk-Ust'-Dzhegutinskaya rail branch through the valley of the Kuban' and the Teberda rivers, and enters the territory of the Georgian SSR at Klukhori. Of extreme importance for the future development of the region will be the final realization of the Manych Canal project linking the Caspian and the Black seas. Prior to the Second World War, the waterway had been canalized for a distance of over 150 miles eastward to the area of Divnoye. Due to destruction caused by the war, several reservoirs were emptied, and the canal installations fell into disuse. Small-scale reconstruction has been undertaken since the war; however, the completion of the project will have to await a future Plan.

Stavropol', the center of the kray, was known as Voroshilovsk from c. 1935 until 1943. It lies in the chief grain area of the region and has flour mills, a meat-packing plant, wool and leather industries, and produces chemicals and lumbering machinery. The vicinity of the city will benefit immeasurably from the new Nevinnomyssk Canal which will provide irrigation to this drought-ridden section.

Pyatigorsk, in the midst of five mountains (whence its name), of which the Besh-Tau and the Mashuk are best known, is the center of the four resort cities of the Northern Caucasus. Its warm sulphur springs and mud baths are much frequented. Next in size is Kislovodsk, at an elevation of 2,695 feet, with carbonated springs. Yessentuki, west of Pyatigorsk, has salt and alkaline springs, and Zheleznovodsk, to the